CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing at least two software applications on a display of a computer system comprising:

instantiating a first software application on the computer system;

instantiating an other than a first software application on the computer system;

rendering the first software application in a first graphical window on a first portion of the display and in a first graphic control on a second portion of the display as a result of the instantiation of the first software application;

rendering the other than the first software application in an other than the first graphical window on the first portion of the display and in an other than the first graphic control on the second portion of the display as a result of the instantiation of the other than the first software application;

forming a group of software applications in the first graphical window, the group comprising the first software application and the other than the first software application, the forming comprising:

~~and~~

~~while the first software application and the other than the first software application are instantiated:~~

obtaining an indication to organize the first graphic control and the other than the first graphic control in a group, wherein obtaining the indication includes rendering a set of guides representing inclusion or exclusion from one or more possible groupings in the second portion of the display;

grouping the first and the other than the first graphic controls on the second portion of the display according to the obtained indication; and

rendering the grouping in a bordered group in the second portion of the display, the bordered group including the first and the other than the first graphic controls and a graphic group control;

receiving a single user action to act upon the group; and

performing, upon the receiving, the single user action to each of the software applications in the group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications individually in the group

~~preserving a layout, as rendered on the first portion of the display, of each graphical window that corresponds to each graphic control in the group~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein obtaining an indication to organize the first and the other than the first graphic controls includes obtaining a user manipulation of a selection device to drag and drop the first graphic control on the other than the first graphic control.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising rendering a set of guides indicating one or more possible groupings corresponding to a drag and drop within a selected guide.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the set of guides include a curved carat indicating the inclusion of a selected graphic control to a

group and a straight line to indicate the exclusion of a selected graphic control from a group.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the graphic group control instantiates a simultaneous action on the first and the other than the first graphic controls and the respective graphical windows corresponding to the graphic controls.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein instantiating an action on the first and the other than the first graphic controls comprises minimizing the graphical windows corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls, restoring the graphical windows corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls, closing the graphical windows corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls, saving data within the graphical windows corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls, or resizing the graphical windows corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the rendering of the first and the other than the first graphic controls as the bordered group within the second portion of the display includes displaying at least a portion of the first and the other than the first graphic controls, the method further comprising:

obtaining an indication to collapse the group; and

rendering the group solely as a group graphic control on the second portion of the display.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein obtaining an indication to collapse the group includes:

monitoring the frequency of manipulation of the first and the other than the first graphic controls; and

automatically collapsing the group if the frequency of manipulation is below a threshold level.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 7, wherein obtaining an indication to collapse the group includes obtaining a user indication to collapse the group.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein rendering the first and the other than the first graphic controls as a group within the second portion of the display includes associating a name with the group and rendering the name on a portion of a group indicator.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising: obtaining an indication to remove the other than the first graphic control from the group; and rendering the first and the other than the first graphic controls as separate graphic controls.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein rendering the bordered group includes rendering a continuous border around the first and the other than the first graphic controls indicating the association of the first and the other than the first graphic controls to the group.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the bordered group corresponds to a project and wherein rendering the first and the other than the first graphic controls as a group within the second portion of the display includes rendering a project control for toggling the software applications corresponding to the first and the other than the first graphic controls between a minimized state and a restored state.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein rendering a project control includes rendering a project name and a number of software applications included with the project.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 15, wherein obtaining an indication to organize the first and the other than the first graphic controls includes

obtaining a user manipulation of a selection device to drag and drop the first graphic control on the other than the first graphic control to organize the first and the other than the first graphic controls as a project.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the computer system includes a base project group separate from the project including the first and the other than the first graphic controls and wherein the first and the other than the first software applications belong to the base project.

19. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 18 further comprising:

toggling the project corresponding to the first and second software applications in a minimized state;

obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project; and

displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display.

20. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying a reduced size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

21. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying a full size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

22. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying at least semi-transparent representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

23. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project includes obtaining a manipulation of a user selection device to hover over a minimized project control.

24. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project includes obtaining a selection of a preview control corresponding to a minimized project control.

25. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 15 further comprising: generating a time-line associated with the project corresponding to the first and second software application;

generating at least one snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application, wherein the at least one snapshot is dependent on a time value; and

displaying the snapshot on the time-line as a time-based icon.

26. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the time-line is associated only with the project corresponding to the first and second software application.

27. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein storing at least one snapshot includes generating a snapshot according to pre-determined time criteria.

28. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein storing at least one snapshot includes:

obtaining an indication to generate a snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application; and

generating a snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application in accordance with the indication.

29. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 25 further comprising:

obtaining a selection of the time-based icon; and

generating a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display.

30. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 29 further comprising:

obtaining a subsequent selection of the time-based icon;

recalling the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon; and

restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon.

31. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 30, wherein generating at least one snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application according to a time as a time-based icon includes storing state information corresponding to the first and second software application and wherein restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon includes restoring state information stored for the first and second software application.

32. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

generating a record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications;

storing the record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications; and

generating a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display.

33. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying a reduced size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

34. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying a full size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

35. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes displaying at least semi-transparent

representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the first portion of the display.

36. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows includes obtaining a manipulation of a user selection device to hover over the group corresponding to the first and second software applications.

37. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows includes obtaining a selection of a preview control associated with the group corresponding to the first and second software applications.

38. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining an indication to restore the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software applications; and

restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display stored according to the record of the layout.

39. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 38, wherein generating a record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications includes storing state information corresponding to the

first and second software application and wherein restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the first portion of the display includes restoring state information stored for the first and second software application.

40. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the second portion of the display corresponds to a taskbar.

41. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 40, wherein the second portion corresponds to multiple toolbars.

42. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 1.

43. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 15.

44. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 32.

45. (Withdrawn) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system for performing the method recited in Claim 1.

46. (Withdrawn) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system for performing the method recited in Claim 15.

47. (Withdrawn) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system for performing the method recited in Claim 32.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer system including a display comprising:

a plurality of software applications instantiated and executed in the computer system, each one of the plurality of software applications ~~application~~ displaying one or more ~~a plurality of~~ corresponding graphical windows and displaying a control tile representing each one of the plurality of instantiated and executed software applications ~~plurality of corresponding control tiles~~;

a desktop for displaying [[the]] a plurality of graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of software applications ~~each software application~~ on the display;

a taskbar for displaying [[the]] a plurality of control tiles corresponding to the plurality of software applications ~~each software application~~ on the display;

an organization component for grouping a portion of the plurality of software applications into a group of software applications by organizing the corresponding plurality of control tiles in the taskbar~~, the organizing includes while the plurality of applications are instantiated obtaining an indication to organize, selecting the plurality of~~

~~control tiles, displaying a set of guides for inclusion or exclusion~~ into ~~one or more groups~~ a corresponding group of control tiles ~~, releasing the plurality of control tiles according to the indication to organize~~;

a rendering component for displaying the corresponding group of control tiles in the taskbar ~~plurality of control tiles according to the indication to organize, if the indication to organize was for inclusion in a group, the rendering component displays the plurality of control tiles within a group while the plurality of applications are instantiated, the group including the plurality of control tiles and a group control tile visually separated from other items in the taskbar~~;

a user input component for receiving a user action upon the corresponding group of control tiles in the taskbar; and

an execution component for performing the user action to each software application in the group of software applications substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each software application individually in the group of software applications

~~, wherein a layout, as rendered on the desktop, of each graphical window corresponding to each control tile in the group is preserved~~.

49. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the user input component receives ~~obtaining an indication to organize the one or more control tiles includes obtaining~~ a user manipulation of a selection device to drag and drop [[the]] a first control tile adjacent to [[the]] a second control tile.

50. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the display of the system displays ~~further comprising displaying~~ a set of guides indicating one or more possible groupings of control tiles corresponding to a drag and drop on a selected guide.

51. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the set of guides include a curved carat indicating the inclusion of a selected control tile to a group and a straight line to indicate the exclusion of a selected control tile from a group.

52. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the corresponding group of control tiles [[tile]] includes a group control ~~one or more group controls~~.

53. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim [[52]] 48 wherein the user action comprises one or more of ~~a group control is~~ minimizing the graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of control tiles, restoring the graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of control tiles, closing the graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of control tiles, saving data within the graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of control tiles, or resizing the graphical windows corresponding to the plurality of control tiles.

54. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the displaying the plurality of control tiles as the group within the taskbar portion of the

display includes displaying at least a portion of the plurality of control tiles, the system further comprising:

the organization component obtaining an indication to collapse the group; and the rendering component displaying the group solely as a group control tile.

55. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein displaying the plurality of control tiles as the group within the taskbar portion of the display includes associating a name with the group and displaying the name on a portion of a group indicator.

56. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 48 further comprising:

the organization component obtaining an indication to remove plurality of tiles from the group; and

the rendering component displaying the plurality of control tiles removed from the group as separate control tiles.

57. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein displaying the plurality of control tiles as the group within the taskbar portion of the display includes displaying a continuous border around a first and a second control tile indicating the association of the first and second control tiles to the group.

58. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 57, wherein displaying a continuous border around the plurality of control tiles indicating the association of the

plurality of control tiles to the group includes displaying the continuous border in a color separate from a color corresponding to the taskbar.

59. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 58 wherein displaying a continuous border around the plurality of control tiles indicating the association of the plurality of control tiles to the group includes displaying the continuous border in a color separate from any other color of a group on the taskbar.

60. (Canceled).

61. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 48, wherein the group corresponds to a project and wherein displaying the plurality of control tiles as a group within the taskbar portion of the display includes displaying a project control for toggling the software applications corresponding to the plurality of control tiles between a minimized state and a restored state.

62. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 61, wherein displaying a project control includes displaying a project name and a number of software applications included with the project.

63. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 61, wherein the computer system includes a base project separate from the project including the

plurality of control tiles and wherein the plurality of software applications belong to the base project.

64. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 63 further comprising:

toggling the project corresponding to the first and second software applications in a minimized state;

obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project; and

displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display.

65. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 63, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying a reduced size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

66. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 63, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying a full size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

67. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 63, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying at least semi-transparent representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

68. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 64, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project includes obtaining a manipulation of a user selection device to hover over a minimized project control.

69. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 64, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows corresponding to the minimized project includes obtaining a selection of a preview control corresponding to a minimized project control.

70. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 61 further comprising:

generating a time-line associated with the project corresponding to the first and second software application;

generating at least one snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application, wherein the at least one snapshot is dependent on a time value; and

displaying the snapshot on the time-line as a time-based icon.

71. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 70 further comprising:

obtaining a selection of the time-based icon; and

generating a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display.

72. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 71 further comprising:

obtaining a subsequent selection of the time-based icon;

recalling the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon; and

restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon.

73. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 72, wherein generating at least one snapshot of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software application according to a time as a time-based icon includes storing state information corresponding to the first and second software application and wherein restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display stored according to the time-based icon includes restoring state information stored for the first and second software application.

74. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 48 further comprising:

generating a record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications;

storing the record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications; and

generating a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display.

75. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying a reduced size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

76. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying a full size representation of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

77. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74, wherein displaying a preview of the display graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software

application in the desktop portion of the display includes displaying at least semi-transparent representation of the

graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application on the desktop portion of the display.

78. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows includes obtaining a manipulation of a user selection device to hover over the group corresponding to the first and second software applications.

79. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74, wherein obtaining an indication to preview the graphical windows includes obtaining a selection of a preview control associated with the group corresponding to the first and second software applications.

80. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 74 further comprising:

obtaining an indication to restore the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software applications; and

restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display stored according to the record of the layout.

81. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 80, wherein generating a record of the layout of the first and second graphical window corresponding to the first and second software applications includes storing state information corresponding to the first and second software application and wherein restoring the display of the graphical windows corresponding to the first and second software application in the desktop portion of the display includes restoring state information stored for the first and second software application.

82. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in Claim 48.

83. (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 48, wherein the toolbar portion is represented as two or more distinct areas on the display.

84. (Currently Amended) A computer system for managing a plurality of software applications, the system comprising:

means for displaying two or more software applications as corresponding graphical windows when the two or more software applications are instantiated on the computer system;

means for displaying two or more control tiles corresponding to two or more software applications when the two or more software applications are instantiated on the computer system; [[and]]

means for forming, based on an action, a software application group comprising the two or more software applications by creating a control tile group comprising the two or more control tiles, each of the control tiles in the control tile group corresponding to one of the software applications in the software application group;

means for automatically, displaying the two or more control tiles in a group; and

~~based on an action to organize control tiles, the action to organize triggers a set of guides indicating inclusion or exclusion of a group and places the tiles within or without the group relative to the set of guides, the group includes the two or more control tiles and a group control tile, the group control tile configured for simultaneous action on both the first instantiated software application and the second instantiated software application, wherein a layout, as rendered when the software applications are displayed, of each graphical window corresponding to each control tile in the group is preserved~~

means for executing a single user action upon the control tile group, where the act of executing comprises performing the single user action to each of the software applications in the software application group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications in the software application group.

85. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 84, wherein the set of guides include a curved carat indicating the inclusion of a selected control tile to a group and a straight line to indicate the exclusion of a selected control tile from a group.

86. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 84, wherein the single user action ~~the simultaneous action on both the first instantiated software application and the second instantiated software application~~ includes:

minimizing the graphical window corresponding to each software application,

restoring the graphical window corresponding to each software application,

closing the graphical window corresponding to each software application,

saving data within the graphical window corresponding to each software application, or

resizing the graphical windows corresponding to each software application.

87. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 84, wherein the means for displaying the two or more control tiles as a group includes means for displaying a group control without displaying any portion of the two or more control tiles.

88. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in Claim 84, wherein the means for displaying the two or more control tiles as a group includes means for displaying the two or more control tiles as a project for toggling the software applications corresponding to the two or more control tiles between a minimized and a restored state.

89. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in Claim 88 further comprising means for displaying a time-dependent representation of the project.

90. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in Claim 89 further comprising means for restoring a time-dependent representation of the project.

91. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in Claim 84 further comprising means for previewing the layout of the graphical windows corresponding to the two or more software applications on the means for displaying two or more software applications as graphical windows.

92. (Withdrawn) The system as recited in Claim 91 further comprising means for storing state corresponding to the two or more software applications.

93. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 84 further comprising:

means for obtaining an indication to collapse the two or more control tiles into the group control tile; and

means for displaying the group solely as a group control tile.

94. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 84 further comprising:

means for obtaining an indication to remove two or more control tiles from the group; and

means for displaying the two or more control tiles removed from the group as separate control tiles.